



# *Proclamation*

The State of Hawai'i joins the nation in recognizing October 2006 as "National Lupus Awareness Month."

Lupus is a chronic, lifelong autoimmune disease that, for unknown reasons, causes the immune system to attack the body's own tissues and organs, including joints, kidneys, heart, lungs, brain, blood and skin. Statistics from the Lupus Foundation of America show the disease affects between 7,000 to 10,000 Hawai'i residents and nearly 1,500,000 Americans throughout the country each year.

Symptoms of lupus are not specific only to lupus, thereby making this disease difficult to recognize and diagnose. These symptoms include fever, joint pain and swelling, fatigue, skin rash, sun sensitivity, hair loss, anemia, chest pains and seizures. In many cases, diagnosis can take up to four years. However, with early detection and treatment, patients live a relatively normal lifestyle.

Lupus occurs more frequently among our Asian, Native Hawaiian, Polynesian, Hispanic, African American and Native American populations. With Hawai'i's diverse cultural population, our residents need to be aware of these symptoms in order to seek immediate medical attention in the early stages of the disease.

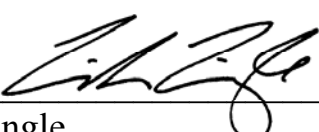
During the month of October, the Lupus Foundation of America, Hawai'i Chapter is sponsoring various activities throughout the state to promote education and awareness of this illness in our islands.

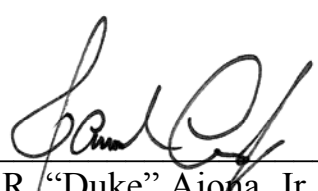
**THEREFORE, I, LINDA LINGLE**, Governor of the State of Hawai'i, and **I, JAMES R. "DUKE" AIONA, JR.**, Lieutenant Governor, do hereby proclaim **October 2006**, as

## **LUPUS AWARENESS MONTH**

in Hawai'i, and thank the Lupus Foundation of America, Hawai'i Chapter for their commitment and dedication to improving the diagnosis and treatment of lupus; supporting individuals and families affected by the disease; increasing awareness of lupus among health professionals and the public; and, making strides toward finding the causes and a cure.

**DONE** at the State Capitol, in the Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, this sixth day of October 2006.

  
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Linda Lingle  
Governor, State of Hawai'i

  
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James R. "Duke" Aiona, Jr.  
Lieutenant Governor, State of Hawai'i